(c) whether it needs widening/improvement; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) to (d) The National Highway No. 91 is a newly declared NH which originates from Ghaziabad and terminates at Kanpur, and has a length of about 405 km. The road is deficient in certain portions and require improvement to NH standards. However, no detailed assessment has been carried out so far. The development and maintenance of National Highways is a continuous process and accordingly improvement works are undertaken in a phased manner depending upon availability of funds and inter-se priority. The road at present is being maintained in trafic worthy condition.

Construction of highways passing through tribal areas

572. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether earlier National Highway No. 8 passes through Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat;

(b) whether another National Highway would be constructed from Delhi to Mumbai *via* Shamlaji to Vadodara, Rajpipla to Songadh, Virar to Vapi which are tribal areas;

(c) if so, by when the work would start and finish; and

(d) the length of the existing National Highway No. 8 and the newly suggested Highway?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI): (a) The existing National Highway—8 between Delhi and Mumbai passes through Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Surat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The lengh of existing National Highway No. 8 from Delhi to Mumbai is about 1400 km.